

INGHAM

REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

A McLAREN HEALTH SERVICE

Meridian Women's Health

Michael H. Maser, D.O. • Sandra K. Russell, D.O. • Bonnie S. Thornton, D.O. • Robert Seiler, D.O. • Grace Gibbs, D.O.
Sameerah Shareef, M.S.N., C.N.M.

To Whom It May Concern:

As an OB/GYN in Okemos, Michigan I am very much interested in the Senate bill regarding HPV immunizations.

I see many women of all ages with abnormal pap smears which are caused by the HPV virus. I have also seen women who have had to undergo treatment for cervical cancer and the effects of the treatment can be very devastating.

This vaccine has an enormous potential as I see it. It is possible to diminish or eliminate the potential deleterious effects of the HPV virus over time. Of the 19 million STD's diagnosed every year in the United States, half are diagnosed in the young population ages 15-24.

As you can see this is a very big problem. By instituting an immunization program in children we can help prevent the effects of this virus for many people. The question would be when the ideal time of vaccination would be. We must try to give the vaccine as early as possible to prevent transmission. It has been shown to be safe in children as early as nine.

I fully support an immunization program which includes the HPV vaccine to the list of required immunizations. As you can see this can potentially keep our children from developing some significant problems from HPV, not to mention the health care dollars that would be saved from not having to follow-up and treat abnormal pap smears.

Thank you,



Sandra Russell DO FAACOOG